

**Meeting Minutes**  
**CJCC Subcommittee**  
***Empowering Reentry & Reducing Recidivism***  
**Jury Room B, Law & Justice Center**  
**November 4, 2009**

**Present:** Pam Allsop  
Jim Cashell  
Matthew Cyr  
Ben Dirks  
Michael Dunham  
Brian Gootkin  
Don Hargrove  
Dennis Haska  
Charlie Hubbard  
Roxanne Klingensmith  
Marty Lambert  
Dan Lubbers  
Peter Ohman  
Stacey Pace  
Jack Pollari  
Ray Ross  
Randy VanOsdol  
David Young

Co-Chair Roxanne Klingensmith called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm. Copies of the agenda for the meeting and the Bylaws of the CJCC were distributed. Roxanne asked those attending to introduce themselves and tell who they were representing and why they were interested in offender reentry and reducing recidivism. After introductions, Roxanne asked that everyone sign the attendance sheet being circulated on a clipboard. Roxanne shared that two individuals had voiced interest in this new subcommittee but could not attend this first meeting – they are Connie Campbell and Shelly Johnson.

Roxanne gave a brief history of how this new CJCC subcommittee was birthed mentioning that it was a topic on the CJCC agenda at the August 5, 2009 meeting and also at the all-day CJCC retreat on September 10, 2009. At the CJCC meeting of October 7, 2009, a motion was made and seconded to create a recidivism reduction subcommittee of the CJCC with community involvement to explore ways to deal with recidivism in the criminal justice system. The motion passed unanimously. Roxanne Klingensmith and Marty Lambert volunteered to serve as co-chairs of the new subcommittee.

Roxanne stated that membership on this subcommittee would require a time commitment and that the overall mission of the subcommittee will be to provide updates on progress and recommendations to the CJCC. With respect to meeting time and place, there was a consensus to meet after each of the regular monthly CJCC meetings in Jury Room B, provided the room was

available. If the room was not available, Marty Lambert offered his conference room as backup. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:15pm.

Roxanne proposed that the subcommittee consider being divided into three working subgroups to address the following issues: (a) mission and goals of the subcommittee; (b) definition of recidivism and data collection; and, (c) community resources and best practices. Roxanne asked for some discussion on the aforementioned issues. With respect to recidivism, Dave Young distributed the following three definitions of recidivism for discussion purposes:

**Dictionary** - Recidivism (from recidive + ism, from Latin recidi-vus "recurring", from re- "back" + cado- "I fall") is the act of a person repeating an undesirable behavior after they have either experienced negative consequences of that behavior, or have been treated or trained to extinguish that behavior.

### **Federal Government**

Second Chance Act of 2007; Public Law 110-199; *Second Chance Act Reentry Initiative 2009* - "A return to prison and/or jail with either a new conviction or as a result of a violation of the terms of supervision within 12 months of initial release."

U.S. Department of Justice - "Recidivism is defined as the number of criminal acts committed by offenders from the target population that result in conviction, or return to prison with or without a new sentence."

**Montana Department of Corrections (2009 Biennial Report)** - "The rate at which adult offenders return to prison in Montana for any reason within three years of release from prison. Each release can have only one corresponding return."

The following points were expressed during the discussion of recidivism:

recidivism is a detestable term; the federal government cannot even agree on one definition  
it has been said that 7% of the people do 70% of the crimes  
a word of caution was expressed about getting hung up on definitions and too much focus on measuring impact; reference was made to the history of development of the Gallatin County Treatment Court in 1999  
about 50% of those incarcerated at MSP are there because of a violation of their sentencing  
remember that it costs over \$30,000 per year to house an inmate at MSP  
we need to be focusing on local impact and not on state-wide impact; remember that a very small percentage of inmates at the GCDC actually end up at MSP  
we need to define recidivism for ourselves; the dictionary definition looks the best right now  
we need to establish a fact that we in Gallatin County really do have a higher than average rate of recidivism

Roxanne opened the discussion on community resources and best practices with the following points being made:

for those leaving incarceration, it would be advantageous to have a resource guide for community programs as part of discharge planning

it seems that the county could benefit from establishing a mental health court like some other communities have done  
we need to be considering new programs that could be in place for the new jail that would aid in reducing recidivism  
the question was raised about ex-offenders participating as volunteers in future reentry programs; the response was that the issue would need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis because of the complexity and unique aspects of each case  
a number of discharge planning needs could be addressed by this subcommittee  
we must remember that the key mission of the GCDC is safety of the community, not rehabilitation

Roxanne asked if there were other people that were missing from the group who might be interested in serving on the subcommittee as a member and/or as a resource person? The names of the following individuals were mentioned:

Judge Salvagni  
Courtney Duchin  
Scott Malloy  
Casey Rudd  
Melissa Kelly  
Eric Bryson  
Warren Heibert

Roxanne asked for any additional comments for the good of the subcommittee. Brian Gootkin said that he would be pleased to arrange a tour of the new jail for the subcommittee when ever it was convenient, perhaps after the next meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Hearing no further comments, Roxanne thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 2:15pm.